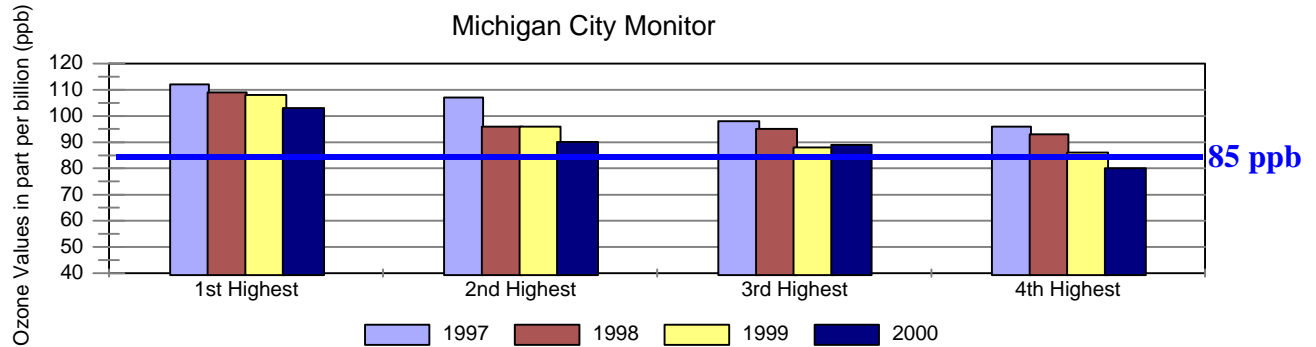
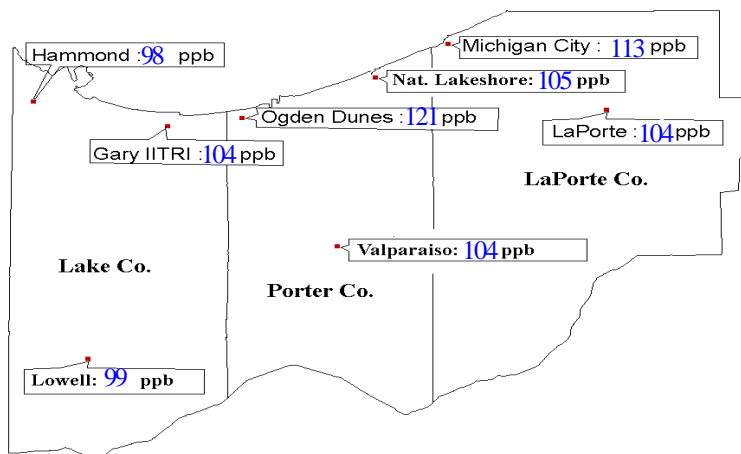


8-Hour Ozone Trends for 1997-2000



Northwest Indiana's highest ozone readings generally occurred at the Michigan City monitor. The chart above illustrates the four highest 8-hour ozone levels recorded at the Michigan City monitor from 1997-2000. The fourth highest concentrations from the highest site in an area are the values used for determining if an area is in attainment of the ozone health standard. EPA indicated that nonattainment designations for the 8-hour standard

Northwest Indiana 2000 Ozone Values 1-Hour Maximum Readings



will likely be based on 1998-2000 data. Lake and Porter Counties are currently designated severe nonattainment for the 1-hour standard. At the time of these counties were designated nonattainment, monitors recorded more than three ozone readings of 125 ppb or more over a three year period. However, air quality in Northwest IN has improved. The map to the left shows the highest ozone readings in 2000 for Northwest IN, none of which exceeded 125 ppb. Nonattainment areas may be required to reduce pollution from cars, factories, fuels, power plants, and consumer products to help reduce ozone levels. IDEM, working with local communities, is developing a plan to bring this area into compliance with the ozone health standard.

What Can You Do?

1. Get active in ozone planning for your community. Contact the Partners for Clean Air to receive local information about taking a proactive approach to reduce ozone and improve air quality in your area. Call (800) 451-5983 for more information on how to get involved.

2. Get in the know about ozone levels. During ozone season, listen or watch for Ozone Action Day information on your local radio and TV stations. You can even get daily ozone readings, forecasts, and monitor data from Indiana's Smog Watch web site. See the Smog Watch Web site at <http://www.state.in.us/idem/oam/smog> or call our toll-free Smog Watch Forecast Line at (800) 631-2871 from May through September.

3. Reduce your impact. Ride share; fill up the car or mow your lawn after dusk; and go inside the bank or restaurant instead of using the drive-thru. By making these efforts you can help reduce your impact on high ozone days. For more information on Indiana's ground-level ozone monitoring or voluntary reductions programs, contact OAQ Outreach at (800) 451-6027.

